MONTEREY NEWS

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The Town

School Issues

The coalescence of three unrelated but intertwined factors of Monterey's educational environment prompted extensive discussions recently about learning opportunities for local students. First, Monterey is nearing the end of its obligation to pay off the Southern Regional School District's capital bond. Next, Rick Mielke's term as School Committee Representative is about to end. And finally, the new elementary and middle schools in Great Barrington will be open by fall.

Outgoing School Committee Representative Rick Mielke proposed that Monterey create a five-to-seven member local school committee to explore options for town students. Questions to be addressed would include: Why do a majority of students choice out of the district? Should Monterey initiate an educational center with resources such as Internet hookup? Can Monterey use retired teachers and professionals to supplement the educational experience?

Palpable discontent with the school district's budgetary process helped fuel the investigation of what options Monterey has for educating its students. At one point, Debra Mielke suggested that Monterey refrain from appointing a School Committee Representative to "make a statement" about how some parents view the school district. Select Board member Michèle Miller suggested that Rick Mielke be consulted on this issue. Miller also asked who would take responsibility to learn what procedures are necessary for Monterey to remove itself from the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. Talking with Town Counsel is thought to be a good starting point.

Edie Ross

On Easter Sunday Monterey childern gathered on the Meetinghouse steps before going across the road to search for Easter eggs cleverly hidden around the Library lawn by members of the Monterey Coffee Club, undeterred by the snow cover.

Select Board Chairman Jon Sylbert told the board that the School Committee public hearing on March 3 operated under rules that allowed an individual to speak once for three minutes. The public hearing lasted only thirty minutes, and many thought it was too short for suitable comprehension and discussion of a $13,000,000 budget. The school district received so many complaints about the brief public hearing that it scheduled another meeting—but not a public hearing—for March 10. The additional meeting, seemed somewhat pointless since a regulation prohibits budget increases after the initial public hearing.

Reflecting the concern and confusion surrounding the school budget, the Select Board and the Finance Committee voted to request Rick Mielke to abstain on the March 17 School Committee vote on the budget. Then, at the March 21 Select Board meeting, questions arose over Mielke's vote in favor of the budget after the previous week's decision requesting his abstention. After Valerie Spriggs, School Superintendent, and Maryellen Brown, School District Business Administrator, arrived to hear from Monterey residents about school issues, Mielke explained that since the impetus behind the decision to abstain was to emphasize Monterey's concerns about the school district, and since Spriggs assured him that she was listening to the town's message, Mielke felt a positive message (vote to confirm) was preferable to an antagonistic one (abstention).

The net result of many hours of discussion about Monterey's continued participation in the Southern Berkshire Regional School District is that Superintendent Spriggs is well aware of the discontent within the town, is ready and willing to listen, and is amenable to a more open budgetary process, including holding more public meetings. Select Board and Finance Committee members who have been frustrated with Monterey's status in the district now feel their voices are more likely to be heard and their interests accommodated.

In response to comments about alleged inaccuracies about the school budget information given in the February 14 all-boards meeting, Sylbert explained that by state law the school district's E&D fund can not be more than 5% of the total school budget. E&D funds above that amount must be spent or returned to the towns. Maryellen Brown noted that E&D stands for "Excess and Deficiency," not "Education and Development," as stated at previous meetings. (See "Clarification" on p. 6.)

Building Inspections

As the 2005–2006 town budget develops, department heads are submitting their estimates to the Finance Committee and Select Board. After some months as Building Commissioner, Don Torrico estimates that he needs to put in fourteen hours per week to do a responsible job. If budget constraints require fewer hours per week, the result will be a longer wait for work to be finished. Torrico pointed out that his department takes in more money in fees than it pays out to inspectors.

Individual Select Board members praised Torrico for the job he has done thus far. Notice was taken, though, of the near majority of people at the December special town meeting who voted against his appointment. At that meeting the Select Board reported that the Building Commissioner's job would require ten hours per week, plus two hours per week for a file clerk, and an increase of four hours per week for the Commissioner may be more than the community thinks is appropriate.

Miller agreed that Torrico has been doing a good job and feels that part of the opposition to his work may be attributed to the transition Monterey is experiencing from laissez-faire to broader civic oversight. Select Board member Michael Storch said that it would be helpful for the board if people who have complaints or problems with the Building Commissioner come forward to explain their concerns.

Torrico reported that he rejected Michael Germain's request for a building permit to build a structure for a leech field. The decision is currently in mediation. A permit was issued to the Goetschios household, 4 Tyringham Road, for kitchen renovation.

Torrico announced that he would be meeting with architect David Bixby to resolve several of the vexing issues that

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remain with the Town Hall renovation. Torrico will accept Bixby's recommendation that ventilation is unnecessary for the records room, as long as the room contains only records. Town Hall's front entrance needs to be, well, in front since front entrances must face a public way and have street frontage. The old, and soon to be restored, front door needs to be widened, requires a second handrail, and needs wider steps. The door to the Select Board room needs to open out, not in.

The Select Board received a letter from Carol Edelman, an abutter of the Hupi Road property of Barry and Marjorie Jaffe, currently a construction site. Edelman complained about the workers' dogs running around and barking, the loud music emanating from the building site, and trucks parking on the road. In short order, Rick Mielke, construction supervisor for the Jaffe property, appeared before the Select Board to address the complaint. He spoke highly of the workers and their dogs, but realized that neighbors might take a different view. The "extremely friendly" dogs are under the voice command of their owners, which is within the guidelines of Monterey's leash law, but Mielke will inform the workers of the complaints and ask them to keep the dogs under more restraint and to tone down the music. Sylbert thanked Mielke for his quick and positive response. Torrico pointed out that complaints about dogs are handled by the Police Department and that noise issues are within the purview of the Planning Board.

Highway Department

On February 28, Town Accountant Barbara Gauthier told the Select Board that it had to declare a snow emergency immediately so funds could be released to pay workers for the imminent snow removal. As of February 28, $144,000 had been spent by the Highway Department for winter maintenance, and more would be needed through the end of the snow season. Gauthier noted that the high number of small snowstorms this year is the major culprit in this year's cost overrun of the Highway Department. Monterey received $12,000 from the federal government to defray expenses of the January 22–23 snowstorm.

The Highway Department tried out a new type of road salt during the March 11–12 snowstorm. The salt, made by Cargill and still in the test stage, is treated with a chemical used in skin care products and is believed to be less corrosive because it makes a significantly lower oxygen demand than salts previously used.

After more than thirty years, the condition of Fairview Road continues to bedevil Monterey. Director of Operations Maynard Forbes noted that in many years the road had been closed in the winter. The road's troubled history continues with questions raised about the $14,000 engineering study currently underway. Some town residents are concerned that the study is predicated on the assumption that trees could not be removed and would thus inevitably result in the road being covered with some form of hardtop or an oil and stone mixture.

In response to Miller's questions about the origin of the stipulation that the repair proceed without cutting down any trees, Forbes reported that Fairview Road residents Eric and Holly Montgomery did not want trees cut down, nor did Tree Warden Roger Tryon. Forbes said that an underground drainage system can be used on a hard-surface road, but not under gravel roads. The engineering study currently under way, he said, is predicated on standard engineering principles that calculate water flow, the effect of 10- or 50-year storms, where pipes should be placed, and where catch basins might be placed.

Sylbert said he believes there should be two studies of Fairview Road, one that explores its maintenance as a dirt road, and the current one, which will presumably recommend some form of paving. A motion to initiate a second study was approved at the March 7 meeting. At the March 14 meeting, Miller proposed a motion to rescind approval for a second study, asking instead for a promptly held public hearing where interested members of the community could have their say. She expressed her concern about the $14,000 engineering study, noting that the Select Board had decided that awarding advisory contracts over a certain amount should not continue without the approval of the Finance Committee. A public meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 11, at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall, and will be part of the monthly evening Select Board meeting, one week earlier than usual because of Patriot's Day. Miller suggested that Forbes bring one of the engineers working on the Fairview Road report to the April 11 meeting so that a professional familiar with the problem can answer questions.

Several residents addressed the board about their Fairview Road concerns. Roger Tryon said that he and others are investigating the use of the Scenic Roads Act to preserve Fairview as a dirt road. Richard Piepho, a Beartown Mountain Road resident, would like to see the road's blind hills lowered, and have the road widened and paved. Miller noted that paving roads is not always the appropriate solution to traffic concerns.

In response to numerous questions about the disposition of money collected to replace trees after the devastation of the May 1995 tornado, Town Accountant Barbara Gauthier stated firmly and

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unequivocally that the Town of Monterey did not receive the money. Donations went directly to the Fire Company, so questions about the disposition of these funds should be directed to Maynard Forbes, Treasurer of the Monterey Fire Company. Funds remain for further tree planting along Route 23.

In response to Sylbert's questions about the salt shed, Forbes explained that the shed requirement evolved from a federal, not a state, mandate. Massachusetts is one of two states that did not participate with the EPA in its management of the Clean Water Act of the 1970s because it was unfunded and the commonwealth does not administer unfunded programs. The Clean Water Act specifies that the town's salt pile must be covered if runoff can result if it is not covered. All storm water runoff must be managed, said Forbes, and it is simply not legal to dump unclean water into rivers. Some of the larger cities in eastern Massachusetts are now being fined if they are not in compliance with the Clean Water Act. Last year Forbes applied for a permit that is legally required if the town is discharging pollutants. He explained that after Monterey receives the permit, the town will be on EPA's "radar," because towns have five years to clear up pollution problems after receipt of the permit. Installing a salt shed is thus a "when" matter, not an "if" question.

In response to a question from Miller, Forbes said that he does not know how officials in other towns are dealing with this issue. For some years Massachusetts did provide funds for compliance, but Monterey did not then use enough salt to qualify for a grant. Monterey now uses enough salt to qualify, but state funding for helping towns to comply with EPA standards ceased in 2000 because the state believed that every town had been covered.

Forbes reported that the town's new 550 truck, like all 550s, has a defective transmission, which was replaced. The Highway Department is looking for a used rear end for the dump truck. The New Marlborough Road bridge has been built in two pieces and is ready to be painted. Several rights-of-way need to be acquired before the River Road bridge repair can be completed.

Fire Department

Sylbert said he believe that the new compensation plan for members of the Fire Department passed by the town supersedes the old agreement from 1980. However, Fire Chief Ray Tryon said that the 1980 agreement, which pays for out-of-pocket expenses such as mileage and replacement of street clothes ruined by smoke, was still in effect. He explained that originally each firefighter received a check from the operating expenses of the annual budget. The 1980 agreement evolved from an agreement made by the firefighters to have their individual payments given as a lump sum by the town to the Fire Department. For several decades that amount has been $5,000. Questions were raised about this fund, and Tryon said he would provide pertinent background information and documents to the Select Board.

Tryon requested that a Forest Fire Account of $2,500 be opened, to which funds could be transferred if there is a forest fire. Sylbert suggested that this fund be added as a line item for the budget so it could be carried over, if necessary. Tryon acknowledged that Monterey has not had a forest fire since the early 1930s. In general, a forest fire is defined as taking more than five hours work and covering more than 25 acres.

Around the Town Offices

"Can Town Hall's erratic heating system work more efficiently," asked Barbara Gauthier, prompting a discussion on how the heating zones were established. The short explanation is that there are too many heating elements in small rooms and too few in larger ones. Forbes said that the building's specs had no heating plans, and that the heating elements are buried in concrete.

The Select Board requested that individual items for the Town Office budget, such as telephones, oil, and maintenance, be broken out for year-to-year review. Gauthier reported that the town had received a $144 bill from the Berkshire Eagle for the ad for the Building Commissioner's two-hour part-time clerk.

Questions have been raised about the appropriate title for the job currently held by Bonnie Tedder. Tedder and the Select Board are trying to resolve the issue of whether the job is that of an administrative assistant or town secretary.

In the absence of two of four of the town registrars, Linda Thorpe was voted in as temporary registrar so the Town Clerk can produce the warrants for Town Meeting.

Wilson-McLaughlin House

Shirley Olds and Joe Baker, representing the Friends of Wilson-McLaughlin House, Inc., addressed the Select Board about the proposed wording for a warrant article at Town Meeting. The Friends, a private, nonprofit corporation, proposes to lease the Wilson-McLaughlin House from Monterey for $1 per year to restore and maintain the building for municipal uses in accordance with Edith Wilson's will. A five-year lease was suggested. The Friends hope to complete Phase 1 of the restoration by the end of 2005.

Although the Friends will oversee the work on the House, Monterey itself must care for the land, including its access, parking, and continued maintenance. Miller pointed out that Monterey will have to create a driveway before construction can take place. A traffic expert should be hired to help with placing the driveway

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on Route 23. It was agreed that public hearings would be held before the Friends hire engineers or other consultants.

The next informational meeting on the Wilson-McLaughlin House will be April 26, 7:30 p.m., at Town Hall. (See related article on p. 16.) Residents who have not yet seen the oil paintings by Edith Wilson of her property and Monterey, currently on display in the Select Board meeting room, are in for a treat, a sentiment expressed by all who have seen them.

Friends of Lake Garfield

Janet Cathcart, President of the Friends of Lake Garfield (FLG), reported that FLG hopes that LakeFest will become a town-sponsored event, partly for insurance purposes and partly for funding continuity. FLG would like to withdraw some of its financial support for LakeFest to put the money instead into research on and care of the lake. "We think LakeFest has accomplished the goal of making the lake into a town resource," said Cathcart.

LakeFest 2004 cost $8,400, of which $6,500 was spent on fireworks. Cathcart would like to see the town support LakeFest with $2,500. An additional $2,500 would be raised by FLG. She believes that she could raise an additional $3,000 from the sale of posters and from local business contributions. A special warrant item will be required if Monterey decides it wishes to continue LakeFest as an annual event.

Cathcart suggested that Monterey might want to offer a series of summer events for children, such as art projects or croquet, and have LakeFest as the season wrap-up for the lake. LakeFest 2005 is currently scheduled for Saturday, August 13, with August 14 as the rain date.

Park Commission Chairman Thorpe reported that Friends of Lake Garfield has asked the Parks Department for help with LakeFest, a request that did not meet with enthusiasm because it could set a precedent for the Park Commission's involvement with other town lakes, particularly Lake Buel.

Cathcart also suggested that Monterey post signs noting the Lake Garfield watershed area as a first step in teaching people about the lake's importance. Permission would be necessary to post signs along the road.

Police Department

Police Chief Gareth Backhaus reported that Monterey was well policed in his absence in March. There were some bad accidents that were handled appropriately. Patrolman Kyle Whalley reported that in February and March the department had been busy ticketing speeders, particularly along Route 57.

When questioned about his department's budget request, Backhaus said that the budget should be essentially the same as the last one, depending on the formula for the state's distribution of the community policing grant. Backhaus pointed out that towns with large tourist and second-home owner populations are "punished" by state funding formulae, as are towns that are proactive in public safety.

Greener Watts New England

Miller noted that since more than 3% of Monterey households participate in Greener Watts New England or other green energy choices, Monterey will receive a 30% match of all premiums paid by those participating in the program from the Massachusetts Technology Collective to help fund a renewable energy project in town. Monterey could receive an additional $5,000 from the Center for Environmental Technology's competition for the two Berkshire communities with the highest percent of Greener Watts participation. The contest ends June 30, so there is still time to sign up for Greener Watts to help Monterey compete successfully. (See related story, p. 20.)

This and That

Sylbert announced that Anne Marie Makuc is retiring after more than twenty-five years as town librarian. She has also resigned from the Library Trustees, which she served for more than forty years. The Library Trustees will hire a new librarian.

Funds for a laptop computer for Finance Committee use were approved by the Select Board.

Barbara Dahlman asked the Select Board to consider renting Bally Gally to her son and his family. Dahlman presented information on income guidelines from Construct for affordable housing criteria. There was a discussion of different regulations for income levels; Sylbert said that he would ask Town Counsel to review the deed restriction.

The Tree Warden's scope of activity was discussed.

Bonnie Tedder reports that copies of the proposed Town Budget for 2005–06 will be available at the Town Offices after April 11.

— Laurily K. Epstein

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Laura Grunfeld

Tom Ingersoll, Anson Olds, and John Sellew warming up in the Monterey General Store before migrating across the road to the Meetinghouse for the March 11th Hootenanny, sponsored by the Monterey Cultural Council. The Meetinghouse was filled, as musicians came from far and wide to share songs, old and new. There were stringed instruments of every kind, voices blended in sweet harmonies, and people playing together who had never done so before. As the hours rolled on, it was clear no one, musicians or observers, wanted to go home. Some preferred fiddle, some banjo, some guitar, but one thing everyone agreed on—"Let's get together again real soon!"

Clarification

Last month's Monterey News article on the All Boards Meeting correctly reported misinformation presented during the meeting concerning the school district.

The E&D fund is Excess and Deficiency, not Education and Development. Any E&D funds in excess of 5% of the succeeding fiscal year's budget—if they are not added into the budget—must be returned to the towns in the form of lowered assessments. The fund is currently near the 5% level and is in no danger of being depleted. Also, the district spends $600,000 for transportation, not $1 million, but receives only a 67% reimbursement from the State, instead of the 100% originally legislated. Write your State Congressman and Senator!

We regret the errors and commend both Superintendent Valerie Spriggs and Business Administrator Maryellen Brown for keeping the school healthy despite the unresolved fiscal complexities caused by the original district agreement among the five towns.

— Monterey Select Board, Finance Com.

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May 7 Town Election Slate

Seven Town Officer seats are being contested in this year's town election, which will be held on Annual Town Meeting day, Saturday, May 7. Candidates running for the contested seats are listed below, followed by the slate of candidates for the uncontested seats. Note that in the contested races for the Board of Appeals and the Planning Board one of the candidates has been endorsed by both the Republicans and the Democrats, while their opponents took out papers and collected the necessary voter signatures to appear on the ballot. Letters from candidates for contested seats, if received in time for this issue, are printed in the following columns, followed by introductory letters from unopposed first-time candidates (inc. = incumbent; all unopposed candidates have been endorsed by both Republican and Democratic caucuses).

Contested Seats

Board of Appeals (5 years)
Richard Piepho
Cynthia Weber (inc.; D, R)

Board of Assessors (3 years)
Riccardo Boehm (inc; R)
Robert Lazzarini (D)

Finance Committee (3 years)
Maureen Haugh (D)
Kenneth "Bob" Heath, Sr. (R)

Library Trustee (2 years)
Jane Black (D)
Carolee "Mickey" Jervas (R)

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Park Commission (3 years)
Jim Edelman (inc.; D)
Charles Mielke (R)
Planning Board (2 years)
Brian Puntin (D, R)
Gerry Shapiro
Select Board (3 years)
Bruce Kelly (R)
Jon Sylbert (inc., D)

Uncontested Seats

Board of Health (3 years)
John Makuc (inc.)
Cemetery Committee (3 years)
Thomas Haugh
Library Trustee (3 years, 2 seats)
Laurie Shaw (inc.)
Linda Thorpe (inc.)
Library Trustee (1year)
Lois Storch
Moderator (1 year)
Mark Makuc (inc.)
Planning Board (5 years, 2 seats)
Janet Cathcart
Cynthia Hoogs
Tree Warden (1 year)
Roger Tryon (inc.)

Candidates in Contested Town Election Races

Board of Appeals (5 years)

Richard Piepho

Let me introduce myself. My name is Richard Piepho. As a resident of the Berkshires since 1981 and Monterey since 1988, I am looking forward to serving the community by running for the Zoning Board of Appeals. I would like to share some of my background.

Since 1983 I have owned my own business working in the building trade in southern Berkshire County. I've been privileged to work in a wide range of homes across South County. I've been involved in restoring homes built in the early 1800s for extended periods of time, and in remodeling homes of less historic lineage and also newly built structures. In the past eight years I have focused on paint application and finishes. In this field my work has ranged from restoration at Edith Wharton's "The Mount" to interiors of beautiful homes in Monterey. My relationships with homeowners and contractors are an aspect of my work that I greatly enjoy.

On a more personal note, I've been married for twelve years to Diana Giordano. We have two sons, Judah and Jordan ten and six years old, and we've lived in our home on Beartown Mt. Road since 1994.

In running for the Zoning Board of Appeals, I understand the seriousness of the purpose for the bylaws and laws that have been established concerning zoning. Balancing the heart of the issues that are being appealed with the facts of the stated codes and laws needs a discerning eye, which I hope to bring to the board.

Thank you and be sure to vote on May 7th at the Town Meeting.

Cynthia J. Weber (inc; D, R)

For the past ten years I have been privileged to serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals. This Board is charged with interpreting Monterey's Zoning Bylaws with reference to each exception presented to it and in accordance with instructions embedded within the same Bylaws. The decisions of this Board are judicial in nature based upon a familiarity with the intentions and history of Monterey's Bylaws and made with due consideration of our relationship to the laws of the Commonwealth. Furthermore, the decisions reflect immediately on the disposition of the properties in question. It is probable that not many citizens would find the work of this Board to be enthralling, but in all honesty, I find it to be fascinating and a microcosm of life in a democracy.

(*over*>)

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Since 1967 I have been an elected or appointed official of Monterey: three terms as a member of the Finance Committee, four as an Assessor, as many years as Monterey's first state-sanctioned Assistant Assessor, and, finally, years as Town Secretary. More than a decade on the Council for Aging, two terms on the Board of Appeals, and current work on the Wilson-McLaughlin House Committee bring us to the present. I have been a member of the Historical Society since 1960, first as a summer resident and then as a voting citizen in 1965. I continue as the Society's second Treasurer.

Monterey, its citizens, and I have shared almost a lifetime. I would be most pleased to continue working for us all as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, and I hope to have earned your vote.

Board of Assessors (3 years)

Ricardo Boehm (inc., R)

I have been fortunate to live in Monterey for nearly ten years and enjoy the country lifestyle and a growing circle of friends. I live on Main Road by Stevens Lake with my wife Helen and two dogs and one cat. My son, Carlo, works in Uzbekistan for Human Rights Watch. He is the source for the hats worn by the Coffee Club. My daughter, Pilar, is studying in Madrid and learning more than I care to know about.

Three years ago I bought the Monterey General Store building, and I am delighted that the business is doing so well under the ownership and management of my friend Kenn Basler.

I've been a member of the Board of Assessors for nearly two years since the last Board resigned in 2003. Stan Ross, Bob Gauthier, and I volunteered to serve as appointed members, and we were all re-elected last May. I drew the short term, and here I am asking for your vote again.

Stan and Bob and I have taken accuracy, fairness, and willingness to listen as our guidelines, and I think we have succeeded to a great extent. I have taken the training to be certified as an Assessor. Stan and Bob (when feeling weak) tell me that my business and real estate experience bring a useful perspective to our discussions. Eric Kristensen helps us with technical matters and fieldwork. We keep our office open on Monday afternoons and Saturday mornings with the assistance of Linda Hamill.

This year we will conduct the revaluation of all real property at full and fair cash value. Property values have been rising in Monterey and so have assessments. But this is balanced by the lowest tax rate in the southern Berkshires.

Another current project is remapping all the properties in town so that we have as accurate an information base as possible. Our existing maps are well out of date and often inaccurate. Detailed aerial photographs will be taken (cover any building or vehicles you don't want us to know about!) and new maps will be prepared with the photographs as the base. There will be a thorough review of all Monterey deeds in the Registry and that information will be used in preparing the property boundaries.

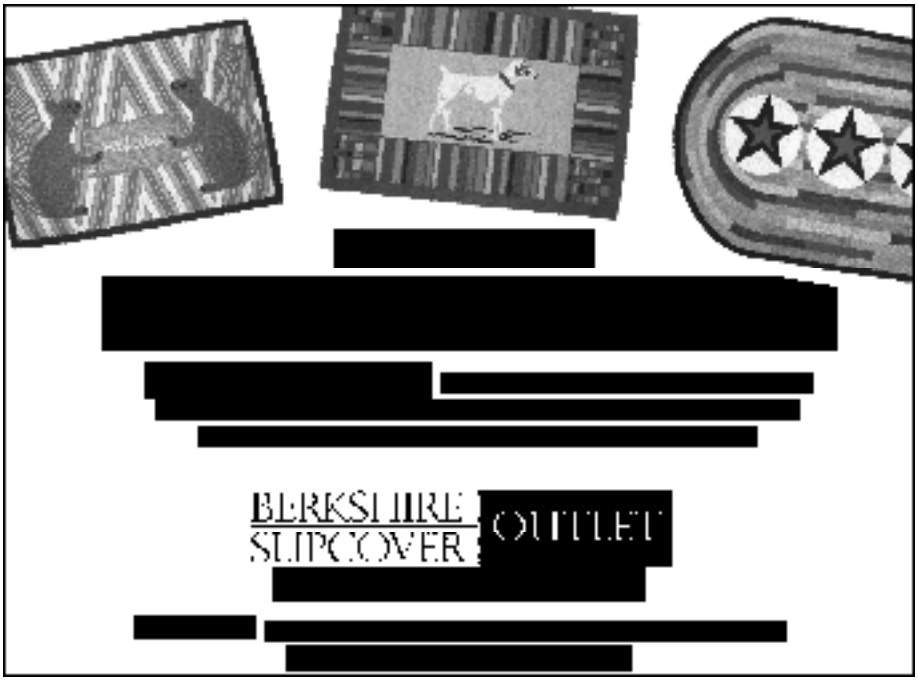
As a Board I think we have been fair and open in doing our work. I am glad to have been able to help with this task. I ask my neighbors of all political parties for their vote so that I may continue to work with Stan and Bob in serving you. Thank you.

Robert Lazzarini (D)

I am a candidate for a position on the Board of Assessors this year and I ask for your support. As many of you know, my family and I moved to Monterey in 1989. My family became full-time residents in 1991, but I continued to work in New York and was here only three days a week. In 2004 when I retired I also became a full-time resident.

In 2001, as I was winding down my career as an administrator and research scientist, I was elected to the Monterey Board of Health and served as its Chairman for two of the three years I was on the Board. In 2004 I accepted the post of alternate member of the Monterey Board of Appeals and did not run for reelection to the Board of Health. Now, fully retired, I have more time and energy that can be devoted to town government. I am ready for an increase in responsibility and would like to complement my ZBA duties with those of a member of the Board of Assessors.

I know the current Board of Assessors well and I'm particularly impressed with their progress toward updating the town's real estate files in this rapidly changing real estate market. They have spoken to me at length about their approach to assessing and the need for complete transparency and impeccable fairness in carrying out their duties. I agree wholeheartedly with this approach and believe that, if elected, I could make significant contributions to this assessing process.



Finance Committee (3 years)

Maureen Haugh (D)

My name is Maureen Haugh and I'm the Democratic candidate for the Finance Committee. Although I've lived in Monterey since 1968, many newer residents of town may not know me so I'll let this letter serve as an introduction.

I live at 110 Blue Hill Road and I'm the owner of Kinallen Farm. I was born in Bridgeport, Connecticut, and grew up in nearby Stratford. I graduated from Trinity College in Burlington, Vermont, and in 1962 I married Tom Bradley and moved to Yonkers, New York. His dream to have a farm and raise Morgan horses brought us here with our young family five years later. Tom's sudden death in 1988 was a loss for us all, but our four children, Kevin, Tara, Kate, and Meghan will always consider Monterey their home. In 1991 I married Tom Haugh, a widower whose family I had known for many years.

Since 1979 I've been employed by the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. For nineteen years I've been the secretary at the New Marlborough Central School in Mill River and for four years I worked in the District Administration Office in charge of Accounts Payable and Payroll. Additionally, for the last eight years I've been the District Coordinator of the Annual October School Children Census.

From 1968 to 1991 I was a member of the Monterey Board of Appeals, and more recently I served on the Wage and Salary Committee. I am looking forward to serving Monterey again and I think my experience in town government and my years of employment in the school district will make me an informed and qualified candidate for the Finance Committee.

Kenneth R. (Bob) Heath, Sr. (R)

I have lived in Monterey all my life and have been married to my wife Gail for fifty years. We have two grown children and one granddaughter.

I graduated from Searles High School and served two tours of duty in the US Army. I am a former Selectman, past member of the Monterey Fire Department, and have been involved with the Monterey Water Co. since 1969.

Being retired, and on a fixed income, I feel the residents of Monterey should slow down and look around at the amount of money that is being spent in this town.

Library Trustees (2 years)

Jane Black (D)

Jane Black is out of town until the first week of May and was not able to submit a statement. Her career has been in education, as a teacher, and she has also worked in the Monument Mountain High School library. She was the town reporter for the Monterey News in the mid nineties and is the mother of several grown daughters. —Ed.

Carolee (Mickey) Jervas (R)

As a lifelong library patron, when asked to run for a Trustee position at our library I felt it was an opportunity to repay in a small way for the many wonderful hours provided to me by all the libraries in my life.

When I first came to Monterey from Long Island in 1962 it was as owner and resident of the General Store. What a wonderful way to get to know a small town and all its fulltime and summer residents. For the past thirty years I have commuted to work in Otis and have recently sold my office building there. I am in the process of closing out my business, Southern Berkshire Homes, a real estate brokerage and general contracting firm. Along with other jobs, we built a number of homes in Monterey and had the good fortune to be the general contractor for the Monterey library addition. It always gives me great pleasure to see that lovely and practical workspace.

With Anne Marie stepping down from her positions, meaning we will have just the third librarian in the eighty years, I feel that we are at an important juncture in the life of the library. I would like to be a part of helping to make this transition smooth and of doing what is necessary to move the library forward as the electronic world continues to change the way we live and read.

Park Commission (3 years)

Charles (Chuck) Mielke (R)

I feel that I have made a mistake. My intention in deciding to run for the Park Commission was not to run against my friend Jimmy Edelman but rather to fill a vacancy I thought was left by David Crane, whom I understood had moved out of Monterey. I am sorry that I misunderstood the "open position." So, yes, I would like to be a member of the Park Commission, but not at the expense of Jim Edelman. I have talked with Jim and know how much he values his position on the Commission. I would hope that at some point there would be room for one more. (*over*)

The Monterey Democratic Town Committee

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SUNDAY, MAY 1st FROM 1:30 – 3:00PM
611 Main Road (the Lazzarini's)

Meet Our Outstanding Slate of Candidates
We have endorsed sixteen candidates, some who have already demonstrated their abilities and commitment to our town and others who are interested in serving Monterey for the first time.

You may share your ideas and thoughts about Monterey
And we will share refreshments with you

I would like to bow out of this race at this time. I am already involved with the town in other ways and will be spending a lot of time helping to organize the new Education Committee.

Jim Edelman (D)

I am a candidate for reelection to the Monterey Park Commission. I was asked to run three years ago when the term of one member was expiring and the other two members left office early for personal reasons. I was fortunate to be elected by the voters of Monterey and assumed the chair of the commission my first year. There were many challenges to be met that first year. Among them was to find replacements for swimming instructors, which was accomplished successfully. Certified lifeguards needed to be found and hired. That was done. I was also involved with finding a volunteer to fill one of the two openings that existed on the committee. We also saw to it that the skating rink was open more hours than it had been in the previous several years. While serving on the Park Commission I have spent countless hours volunteering my time to do work on the town beach (spreading sand, fixing fences, clearing seaweed, picking up litter, etc.), resurveying and improving the ball field at Greene Park, helping prepare the skating rink for use, and countless other things. I also have been a volunteer baseball coach here in Monterey for the past eleven years and before that I volunteered as a coach in New Marlborough for nine years.

There were no increases in the budget while I was Chairman of the Park Commission. In my three years of service to Monterey, we have seen an expansion of the number of people on the Commission from three to five members. This has been a positive move and I enjoy good relations with all other members.

I currently serve on the Board of Directors of the Friends of Wilson-McLaughlin House, which is working to help determine the best municipal and recreational uses for that property owned by the town. I also currently serve as State Commissioner of Western Massachusetts Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken Youth Baseball Leagues, which have over four thousand children participating.

In the 1990s I served on the Board of Directors of Western Mass. Girl Scouts, a five-thousand-member organization. Additionally, I was a member of the Advisory Board for Elder Services of Berkshire County.

I have been a resident of Monterey for over twenty years and live on Hupi Road with my wife, Carol, and two children, Jacob and Annabel. I grew up in the village of Southfield in our neighboring town of New Marlborough.

I would be honored to serve the people of Monterey for another term and I ask for your consideration when elections are held in May.

Planning Board (2 years)

Brian D. Puntin (D, R)

My name is Brian Puntin and I am running for the two-year seat on the Planning Board. I have been a lifelong resident of Berkshire County. I was born and raised in Pittsfield, then moved to Tyringham at age sixteen and subsequently to Monterey, where I have been a resident for the past eight years. My wife, Jamie, and I have three children under the age of nine and very much enjoy the lifestyle that Monterey offers our family. I have been working full time in Monterey, operating Roberts Woods Farm for the past seven years. The farm is a horse breeding, training, and sales facility. Prior to farming, I spent thirteen years as a construction supervisor for a large construction company in Pittsfield. I feel I would be an asset to the Planning Board in the long-term goal of developing a proactive (instead of reactive) set of bylaws to guide the growth and development of the Town of Monterey in the decades to come. I ask that you vote for me and in return I will try to help keep Monterey grow smartly by balancing future development with small town charm.

Thank you.

Gerry Shapiro (inc.)

I am running for the Planning Board, on which I have served for the past ten years. My knowledge and involvement with Monterey, where I have been a fulltime resident since 1989, was also strengthened by service on the Board of Assessors, working with both Harry Gustafson and Tim Taylor. The required site visits added to my familiarity of the town. I believe I know Monterey well. I have a graduate degree in architecture and planning and have held a contractor's license. This experience is most useful when architectural drawings and site

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plans are brought to the Planning Board for verification.

As a member of the Planning Board I have been particularly concerned with protecting Lake Garfield as a treasure for the whole community, working to refine bylaws to help do this. Affordable housing is another issue of particular importance to me. To this end I have attended many seminars sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development. The most recent of these was dedicated to the issues of providing affordable housing in a reasonable and appealing manner to towns throughout the state. I believe such housing is increasingly needed in Monterey and I would like to use my continuing service on the Planning Board to make this a reality.

I am running as an independent candidate and would welcome your vote. This is a time for Monterey to come together and consider these critical issues.

Select Board (3 years)

Bruce Kelly (R)

My name is Bruce Kelly. I moved to the Berkshires in 1990 (my older children graduated from Monument) and to Monterey in 1997. I've been an investment banker for twenty years, and am now President of Nolan Securities, based in Monterey and with an office in Greenwich, Connecticut. Previously, I was a Consultant with McKinsey & Company, cofounder of Solar Power Corporation (later bought out by Exxon), and a consultant on non-conventional energy systems for the United Nations. I have a bachelor's and a master's degree from NYU, where I was Student Body President and quite involved in national student politics.

The idea of running for Select Board first crystallized in my mind last year. I love Monterey, and there's no place in the world I'd rather call home. But for the past several years, I've had a growing feeling that our town is over-governed and under-managed. Arguably, we spend relatively more time and money on governing ourselves than our neighboring towns in the Berkshires. Yet controversy seems to be growing all around us—about issues ranging from the Scenic Mountain Act, to significant expenditures such as the aerial survey which many of our friends and neighbors think are highly questionable, to how to manage and enforce the processes associated with building and construction, and so on.

I've talked to many Monterey voters who feel there are no adequate mechanisms for people who are not directly involved in town government to gain an understanding of the various sides of issues their instincts tell them are important to them. And I was quite taken aback by the way the December 2004 town meeting was scheduled and conducted. Many voters were not available because of the impending holidays. And it was easy for me to understand some people's feelings that several important matters were pushed through to a vote when many people didn't understand the key issues and dissenting voices were cut off.

I believe that it's very important for all voters to feel they have a voice and are being heard (even if at the end of the process their views do not carry the day). And I believe our Select Board needs to find ways to give people a window into its proceedings, and the proceedings of other town government entities. Perhaps resurrecting the town report concept will be a good step in the right direction.

One issue I've struggled with in becoming a candidate is time and availability, due to my work and travel schedule, I'm not here at least half the time. On the other hand, one of my personal pet peeves is the disappearance of the citizen politician from the political landscape since the early days of our country, and the entrenchment of a class of fulltime politicians making up our government. I believe one should be able to lead a reasonable family and professional life, and also participate in our governing processes. Meetings in general should be scheduled at times when people who have typical workdays can attend, and whenever possible planned to use the time available as productively as possible. And this is the age of computers and communications—I'm on a couple of boards, including Shakespeare & Company in Lenox, where telephonic participation is fully acceptable.

Thanks for taking the time to read this. I look very much forward to hearing the views of as many neighbors as possible.

Jonathan Sylbert (inc., D)

My wife and I have lived in Monterey since 1998. In that time we've built a house, had two boys, and brought my mother from Maine. For the last five years I've also been involved in town politics, serving on the Planning Board and now the Select Board. Fortunately, I've had help and encouragement from many people, and it's a pleasure to serve.

During my Select Board tenure I've built good working relationships with town boards and committees, the Police and Fire Departments, town employees, and many residents, both year-round and summer. I think I must know more people now than ever before in my life. I've also been communicating with our State Representative and State Senator, with the new superintendent of our School District, and with some of the Select Board and Finance Committee members of the other four

(*over*>)

district towns. I've found my leadership job to be principally a people job, and along the way I've discovered that local politics is the best form of democracy. Nowhere else in government can citizens be more intimately involved, voting on budget items, local zoning, capital spending, and even leash bylaws. If only we could do this at the state and national level.

The last three years have brought changes. The entire Select Board is new. Members I served with previously have been generous with their advice and time, and the transition was easier thanks to them, and also thanks to input from town employees and many residents who've been around a long time and know more than I do. Listening is a big part of serving. So is talking. I think the town is in great shape, both financially and socially, but looking forward, there's more to do.

One important issue is the Southern Berkshire School District. Our capital bond obligation will be fulfilled by the end of the decade, and an array of complex matters involving declining enrollment, transportation funding cuts, the increasingly busy lives of parents, aging satellite schools (including our own kindergarten), and a fifty-year-old district agreement will all need to be considered in the near future. We're establishing a local Education Committee to survey parents in town about their hopes and concerns, and from there begin a discussion with the entire town about how best to continue our children's excellent education.

Another topic receiving attention lately is Fairview Road. Townspeople want gravel roads and safe roads, and occasionally these concerns appear to be in conflict. The entire Select Board is committed to solving the drainage problem plaguing the steepest part of the road without altering its character anymore than absolutely necessary. Once we know the cost and impact of alternate plans, we can all decide on an action at an appropriate venue.

Also, thanks to the EPA, we have major capital expenditures ahead to cover our sand and salt, and the transfer station. A lot of money and planning will be involved.

There are other issues—too many to mention in this letter—needing attention. It's been my conviction that my responsibility as a Select Board member is to make the process of town government as transparent and accessible as possible. That includes not just the weekly operation of the town offices and the signing of warrants, but also the budget process and the appointment process. If everyone has good information the best decisions will be made, and those decisions are yours to make. Monterey is a wonderful community full of interested people. It's well taken care of and well loved because of its residents, and I have no doubt this will continue to be so.

Thanks for your participation.

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Introductions from Uncontested Candidates

Cemetery Committee (3 years)

Tom Haugh

My name is Tom Haugh and I'm running for the Cemetery Committee. As a newcomer to Monterey politics, I thought I would take this opportunity to introduce myself.

I was born in Norwalk, Connecticut, and I lived there until 1991. In that year I married Maureen Haugh and moved to Monterey. I'm a graduate of Columbia University and have a M.S. degree in biology from the University of Pennsylvania. I served in the Marine Corps for three years and I'm a Captain in the Marine Reserves.

My first four years of teaching were spent at Andrew Warde High School in Fairfield, Connecticut. In 1964 I began teaching biology and chemistry at Staples High School in Westport, Connecticut, where I remained until my retirement in 1991.

My first wife, Patricia, died in 1988 and we had two children, Heather and Burke, who still reside in Norwalk.

I truly enjoy living in this beautiful town and I look forward to serving the community as a member of the Cemetery Committee.

Planning Board (5 years 2 seats)

Janet Cathcart

I ask for the support of Monterey voters to elect me to the Planning Board for the five-year seat where the incumbent's term has expired.

As a homeowner, as the President of the Friends of Lake Garfield, and as a citizen working on the regulations for The Scenic Mountain Act, I have had frequent contact with town government. While watching and listening over the past few years, I have often heard about "the open space plan" and "the master plan" and "the need for new bylaws." I have observed frustration and confusion with the lack of action—and frequently the "no show"—of our Planning Board in accomplishing their portion of the tasks

needed to manage many aspects of our community life.

It appears to me that a fresh eye and new energy need to be brought to the task of planning for change in our community. Our town and region are experiencing many changes, and the prospect is for more change not less. We need to develop a comprehensive plan within which regulations, zoning bylaws, procedures, and the like can fit into a framework and overall consensus on what we really want for our community. The members of the Planning Board need to provide leadership and bring together groups of citizens to participate in the development of a master plan that can be widely understood and supported.

I am not a stranger to planning for a community or public policy. After earning a B.A. in English from the University of California at Riverside, I worked as a legislative aide for a U.S. Senator in Washington, D.C. There I participated in originating, drafting, and organizing support for legislative proposals; analyzed statutes and pending legislation; maintained contact with California interest groups, municipalities and state agencies; and was responsible for liaison with federal agencies. One of the legislative projects that I worked on was the development and enactment of the Water Quality Act of 1972, setting standards for water quality that prevail today.

After returning to California I earned an M.B.A. with a concentration in finance at UCLA. I settled in Santa Monica where I was appointed by the Santa Monica City Council to work with a group of citizens to develop the Housing Section of the General Plan mandated by the state. I wrote our subcommittee report analyzing the factors constraining housing availability. In recent years I have volunteered my assistance to organize, manage, and raise funds for small nonprofit groups primarily related to educational institutions or programs.

I want join with other citizens and elected officials in Monterey to evaluate and establish a plan to manage the choices we can still make for the future shape of our community. I ask for your vote to elect me to the Planning Board on May 7th.

Cynthia T. Hoogs

My name is Cynthia T. Hoogs of 500 Main Road, Monterey. I am running for a position on the Planning Board in Monterey and I ask for your vote on May 7th.

I am a native of Monterey, daughter of lifelong residents Richard and Barbara Tryon of New Marlborough Road. My husband, Robert, and I moved to Monterey five years ago, after living in Great Barrington for twenty-two years, where we raised our three grown children.

I currently work for the law firm of Campoli & Monteleone as a real estate paralegal, including work with survey plans, zoning bylaws, subdivision control regulations, wetlands, and other land use issues. Before becoming a paralegal, I worked part-time for several years as a wetlands analyst and served for six years on the Great Barrington Conservation Commission, four of those years as its chairperson.

I am interested in serving on the Planning Board by applying my diverse background in land use, regulatory, and conservation issues to my long and abiding interest in Monterey. I pledge to work hard, cooperatively, and professionally as a member of the Planning Board, with other town boards and with the public. I feel it is very important to be responsive to townspeople, and be helpful to them as their projects involve the zoning bylaws and the subdivision control law.

Planning for the future growth of the town is also an important job for the Planning Board. The town will continue to grow, both in population and land development. We as a town cannot stop growth. But we can, through our bylaws, direct future growth in areas and patterns that are appropriate for the character of the town. Ideally, this would include strengthening the village, allowing for controlled residential growth for both full-time residents and second-home owners, and preserving important open space, agricultural lands, and scenic vistas.

To that end, I would like the Planning Board to work on updating the town's master plan. This process will need to involve participation by representatives of the many aspects of the town in order to be effective. Cooperation and a positive attitude will be an important part of this process.

I feel that my background and knowledge will be helpful to the Town of Monterey as a member of the Planning Board, and I look forward to helping plan for the future of my hometown.

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Choosing Electronics for the Future

In the United States, cell phones, computers, and televisions comprise less than 4% of the waste, but are responsible for 70% of all hazardous waste. Toxins found in these products include antimony, arsenic, barium, beryllium, cadmium, lead, lead acid, lithium, mercury, polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) and polyvinyl chloride. Electronics have increasingly short "useful" lives, which compounds the hazardous waste issue. The responsibility of keeping these toxins out of our air and water is ours, as is the cost.

Before you purchase new electronics:

• Purchase products that will last: the majority of pollution occurs during the mining and manufacturing processes.

• Some manufacturers and retailers will recycle your old electronics. Ask about recycling opportunities for your old equipment when purchasing new electronics.

• Recycle old computers quickly. The longer they are stockpiled, the less useful they are when recycled.

For more information about recycling opportunities for electronic waste and links to organizations concerned about electronic waste, visit www.cetonline.org. If you have questions, contact Raya Ariella at CET, 800-238-1221, ext. 17, or email raya@cetonline.org.

— Ruth Dinerman, CET

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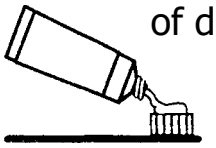

528-6520

Route 23 Monterey

Members Sought for Education Committee

The Monterey Select Board is seeking citizens interested in becoming part of an Education Committee to evaluate and research the educational possibilities and needs of the community, including a survey of all parents to determine the educational choices for their children. Please let the board know if you are interested.

Monterey Youth Baseball

Parents or guardians who would like to have their children ages 5–12 participate in baseball at Greene Park this season should please contact program coordinator Jim Edelman at 528-0006, e-mail cljvedelman@aol.com, as soon as reasonably possible. Players are generally grouped according to age and ability levels. Practice will start in the latter part of April, and play will finish in early July. Concentration is on fundamentals and fun. This is also a good social scene. Residents of Monterey and all South County towns are eligible.

Garbage Pickup Service

The Master Garbologist is now offering residential garbage pickup service in Monterey.

For details, call Don at the Master Garbologist, 229-3442.

April Events in the Highlands

Architectural Bus Tour of Highlands
April 9, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

This bus tour will feature highlights of the Highland Communities Initiative's newly published guide, A*rchitecture in the Highlands,* led by author and historic preservation planner Bonnie Parsons. $20 per person, pre-registration required.

Stone By Stone: The History of Stone WallsLecture and Field Walk
April 30, 11 a.m.–1:30 p.m., Sandisfield

This lecture by author Robert Thorson will expound on his book, Stone by Stone: The Magnificent History in New England's Stone Walls, and will be followed by a walk in the woods to explore some local examples of stonewalls up close. $15 per person, pre-registration required.

For information or to register call Jane Christensen, (413) 268-8219 or email jchristensen@ttor.org.

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On a Cape Cod breezy day
the drawbridge was raised
for a sailboat.
My little daughter clapped
her hands in delight.
“Oh,” she begged,
“Do it again! Do it again!”

What things in our lives
would we do again?
Did you ever answer that letter?
Today, would we do it any better?
Better, a second time?
Now would you say you’re in your prime?
What about the road not taken?
What about the choice mistaken?
Did Lady Luck play a role?
Each time takes its toll.
“I am just at the goal.”
Would you do it again?

— Nancy Adams

Coping

When the day is young and
I’ve slept, breakfasted on rolls and coffee,
then I can face the daily news.

I can’t face the news of the night:
sleeplessness, worry.
Evenings are too long,
and dreams too real.

— Nancy Adams

Light-Hearted Snow

Descending with the slightest breeze,
a lacy curtain lit by sun
cascaded from the tallest trees
as melting too had just begun.

From its arrival, days before,
this fluffy snow had posed no threat.
Its beauty struck me all the more
since I was able to forget

about the problems often posed
by bigger storms. And cautious deer,
whose tracks the covered ground disclosed,
were undeterred from trekking here.

Light-hearted snow, whose charms we sing,
may be a harbinger of Spring.

— Ed Schur

Haiku: Looking in to the night

A hundred thousand silent puddles
are reflecting
the same white moon.

— A. O. Howell

Monterey Community Center Informational Meeting

The Select Board and the Wilson McLaughlin House Committee will hold a second informational meeting on Tuesday, April 26, 7:30 p.m. at the Town Offices. This meeting will be an opportunity for folks to ask questions and offer suggestions as we prepare our proposal for a more formal presentation, an article on the warrant, at the Annual Town Meeting in May.

When the town voted to accept Edith Wilson's gift of her land and house, it to abide by the stipulations of the will requiring that the property be maintained in good condition and used for municipal purposes. Here is a summary of our preliminary planning:

- Friends of Wilson McLaughlin House (FWMH), a private, nonprofit (510[c].3) corporation is being created for the purpose of collecting, managing and using funds for restoration, development, maintenance and preservation of the Wilson McLaughlin House.
- FWMH raises funds from private donations and from grants.
- The town leases the building to the FWMH with the stipulation that it be used only in the manner described in Edith's will, maintaining the "spirit" of the bequest. Lease fee is token $1/year.
- The first phase is to rescue the shell: repair foundation, outside walls, and roof. Original exterior look of the house is maintained to retain its "historic designation" and thus qualify for further grants.
- The next phase is to renovate the interior as a single, one-story room to be used as a municipal community center, suitable for multiuse by various groups: youth, elderly, art, social, etc. "Adaptive reuse" is currently popular with the historical folks so the building would still qualify for historic grants.
- All construction will maximize energy efficiency and will be single story and handicap accessible.
- Town money will be spent for creation and maintenance of driveways, parking lot, outside recreational facilities, etc.

— Susan Sellew

Edith Wilson Paintings on Exhibit

A number of Edith Wilson's vibrant paintings are now hanging on the walls of the Town Offices for all to admire. Stop in to see them.

History of Wilson/Mclaughlin House Property

By 1796 the residents of early Monterey decided to move the Town Center, originally in the area of the Adonijah Bidwell House, to a more southerly position at the junction of Beartown and Carrington-Battelle Roads. There was an active subscription to build the new church, and by 1827 membership had grown to 164 persons.

In 1825 one Barnabas Bidwell bought property at the Second Center, and three years later became an active member of the congregation.

As the settlement prospered and grew, it became apparent that a third move was warranted, to a location further south with better roads and the advantage of watercourses. A subscription to build a new church was taken up in 1842, at which time Barnabas Bidwell pledged $25 for two shares. The South Tyringham Meeting House Society was established in 1846, and by 1849 the church was in use, at the location and in the building we know today.

Barnabas had also looked southward: he purchased two land parcels in 1847 and an additional 13 acres in 1873. When he sold the property in 1880, it was described as "being about 100 rods southeast of the Meeting House." This is the Wilson/McLaughlin property on New Marlboro Road. The map of 1858 lists the property as "B. Bidwell, Rev. W. H. Phelps." Rev. Phelps was the second minister to the South Church, serving from 1854–61. Stylistic characteristics and other references suggest that about 1850 the house was moved to its present location from the older Second Center . Our later map of 1876 specifies the owner as "B. Bidwell."

This property echoes in real historical time the migration and development of Monterey. It also embodies the spirit of those who lived here before us. It seems most fitting that it continue to be used as a vital resource in our community.

— Cynthia Weber

Laura Grunfeld

Joe Baker and Matt Downing at the Monterey Hootenanny

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Easter Sunrise

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened. (Luke 24:1–11)

"But," according to Luke, is where Easter begins. This might strike us as odd since we are perhaps used to hearing "but" as the beginning of bad news. After all, the very definition of the word is that it implies opposition, marking a contrast if not a conflict. And just so, "but" seems the right place to begin on that first Easter morn when the good news was but a deep dawning out of deep darkness, as yet fully to shine forth. Just so, this "but" of opposition seems the right place to begin on that first Easter morn, setting the story up, it would seem, for contrast if not downright conflict. The women were far from overjoyed at the sight of the open and empty tomb. They had come, after all, with spices they had prepared so to anoint Jesus' body and to entomb him with dignity and to grieve for their own sakes as if to come to some closure following these months of proclaiming Jesus as Christ, some sense of completion after watching him at last crucified along with their hope. Just so, "but," this cosmic "on the contrary," seems the right place to begin the gospel witness to the Resurrection which is the beginning of the gospel itself, written then backward into the life of Christ and forward into the life of the Church.

Preachers face a temptation around Easter—to defend the reality of the Resurrection, perhaps even to attempt to prove the Resurrection as a historical happening, as a material occurrence. I, though, will make no such attempt at defending my belief in something so unbelievable, just as I will make no attempt to give you proof (if you seek it) by which to defend your finding credibility in a story so incredible. The world will doubt; sometimes we will doubt. This is so because to believe is to believe in a God who "buts" into the history that we are so busy making. To believe in the Resurrection is to believe in a God who "buts" into our lives that we long to control. To be an "Easter people," to come to the tomb in the faith that we will find it empty, is to believe in a God who "buts" into our business to perplex us and to amaze us and, yes, even to terrify us, to cause us as it did those women with their spices to collapse with our faces to the ground, perplexed, amazed, terrified, interrupted, exhausted.

I wonder if this was one cause of the women's collapse—that they had encountered a beginning where they had expected an end. There is, after all, some relief in having reached the end. Letting go of hope, letting go of expectation, letting go of promises, and forgetting proclamations and dismissing the possible in favor of what is probable—there is some relief in all of this. There is some relief in ultimate resignation. Jesus said from the cross, "It is finished," meaning it is complete, it is made perfect. And, for these women who had heard him speak this, there likely was some relief in being able to accept it as true—that Jesus' death made their journey with him complete, indeed perfectly tragic though perfect nonetheless, allowing them now to get back to business as usual. There is some relief in ceasing to care so intensely, in no longer having to hold out hope for the fulfillment of most amazing promises, or to walk in the Eternal Way that leads to truth and life, or to bear witness to the Resurrection that will never be proven beyond a reasonable doubt. There is some relief in reaching the end of Incarnation, the end of God's Kingdom, indeed the end of God who is truth and love.

But God who yet lives will not let us alone.

But God who yet lives will not resign us to resignation.

But God who yet lives and Christ who yet lives and the Spirit who yet quickens the creation with new life will not leave us be to make of ourselves and of this world what has been tried and proven historically true—competition such that there are "haves" and "have-nots," conflict such that there are winners and losers, intergenerational violence, vengeful warfare, and relentless injustice such that some will live (though likely in fear) and some will die (though likely suffer first).

No, God will not so leave us alone but instead rises to meet us again and again that we might rise to live the lives to which we are called—lives of communion such that all may have life and have it in abundance, lives of reconciliation with God and with one another such that God's peace may prevail, lives of forgiveness, lives that are free from sin and death.

Just so, we are like the women who first came to the tomb of Christ, expecting to find death but finding life. And it's time for us to rise as our Lord has risen and to continue on this journey of faith and hope and love and salvation that has, yes, a purpose but no end in sight.

— Elizabeth Goodman

McLaughlin-Wilson and Other Scholarship Applications Due May 1

Four scholarship funds for local students managed by Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation are accepting applications through May 1, 2005.

The McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Fund accepts applications from students who have lived in Monterey for at least the last two years of high school. Grants usually range from $2,000 to $7,500 and can include awards over multiple years. Applicants will be reviewed by a committee of five residents of Monterey based on the combined criteria of: student's academic achievement, efforts and ambitions to achieve their academic and life goals, financial need, and community service. This Fund was established in 1994 by a bequest from Edith Wilson as a resource for the residents of Monterey to assist families with children who are pursing a post-secondary education.

The Honorable James P. Dohoney Scholarship Fund accepts applications from graduating seniors of Monument Mountain Regional High School, Mount Everett Regional High School, Lenox Memorial High School, and Lee High School. One scholarship of $1,000 is awarded annually. Applicants will be reviewed by a committee of local residents, based on the combined criteria of: significance of the scholarship to the student, demonstration of motivation to succeed in pursing a two- or four-year college degree, financial need, and academic potential. This fund was established in 1999 by friends and family of Judge James P. Dohoney (1942–1995), who honored the Southern Berkshire community through his devotion to his family and the legal profession.

The William Stanley Scholarship Fund accepts applications from students who have lived within Berkshire County during at least the last two years of high school. One scholarship of $3,000 a year for up to four years is awarded annually, along with other one-year scholarships. Applicants will be reviewed by a committee of Berkshire County residents, based on motivation and academic achievement, SAT scores of 1000 or more, placement in the top 20% of the class, a GPA of at least 3.0, financial need, and a plan to attend a two- or four-year college. This fund was established in 1991 following the dissolution of the General Electric employees' Stanley Club named after William Stanley, an inventor and pioneer in the early development of the electrical industry who took advantage of alternating electrical current at its early stage of development and demonstrated its practicality by his historic lighting of stores and hotels on Main Street in Great Barrington on March 20, 1886.

The Quality Printing Scholarship is available to high school and college students in the Berkshire Taconic region who have a parent or stepparent who has been a full-time employee of Quality Printing for not less than five years prior to the application. The Quality Printing Scholarship Fund Advisors, a committee independent of the Quality Printing Company, will review requests for scholarships on the basis of academic achievement, efforts and ambitions to achieve academic and life goals, and community service. Scholarship recipients will receive up to $1,000 per year. The Quality Printing Scholarship Fund was created in 2000 by John DiSantis to provide annual scholarships for the children of Quality Printing employees who are pursuing a post-secondary education.

For more information please contact Berkshire Taconic at 271 Main Street, Suite 3, Great Barrington, MA, 800-969-2823, info@berkshiretaconic.org or visit www.berkshiretaconic.org. Application forms and a list of previous award winners are available on our website or by calling Berkshire Taconic. McLaughiln-Wilson Scholarship applications are available at the Monterey Library.

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Water: Stopping the Wars with Jesse

Some say the next wars of our lifetime will be fought over water, not oil. They say we can live without oil, or gold, or capitalism, but not without water. Here in Monterey it can take a mighty leap of imagination to worry about water: we have it filling our beaver ponds and flooding our driveways. It comes trickling down inside our houses sometimes when ice builds up on the roof. We fill our water bottles fearlessly from the taps.

Meanwhile, there are those documentaries and news spots knocking on our confidence. The older we get, the harder it is to push them away. The photos of desertification in China as the Gobi desert comes marching toward Beijing, those women in Rajasthan walking how many miles each day with great clay pots on head and hips? For so many who do have water nearby, it is unfit to drink and brings them death through illness, through dysentery. Those sweatshop workers in Bangladesh, making our baseball caps on twenty-hour shifts and going home to shantytowns where the water is so sick.

What's my response, here in my adorable kitchen with birds on the feeder, cats on the windowsill, and clean water in the tap? My morning routine involves a lot of water. Top up the humidifier, fill the pot on the stove, check the plants, fill buckets in the tub to take to the barnyard, make more nettle tea for me, and rinse all the sprouts. As I dunk the bags of lentils and chickpeas, pour cold clear water over the spelt grains, and slosh the jar of alfalfa babies, I am thinking today of my sisters in Bangladesh. I just saw that documentary last night, so their faces are with me still. What do I say to them?

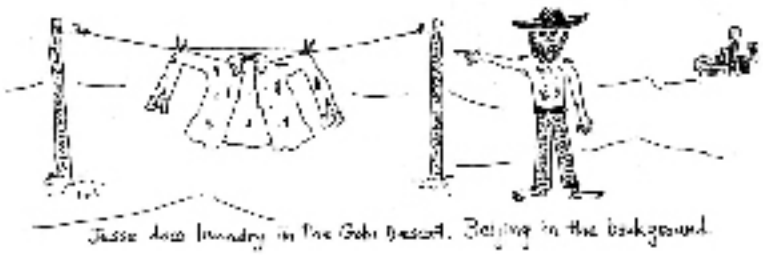
To help me, another face appears, from San Francisco. This is my old friend, fairly nutty, who died recently of AIDS. I'm going to call him Jesse.

Years ago I was out there visiting, finding my place as a houseguest in the apartment, figuring out my intersections with my hosts. Outdoors with Jesse it was field guides and botanical accuracy, but in the house it was all about the kitchen. I got my assignment as chef's assistant in the tomato sauce project. Dunk these tomatoes in this big pot of boiling water, then get them out and slip the skins off.

Lots of chatting, easy to connect when you've got a project and an assignment you can handle. My bowl of naked tomatoes, the big pot of water with a few red wisps suspended. "What do you want me to do with this pot?"

"Oh, save it. Put it over there and I'll use it later to do the laundry."

I could not, at that time, go there with Jesse. I pictured tomato bits all through the wash and it pushed my button like a



Kleenex someone has left in their jeans pocket.

"The laundry?" (I could imagine using it to help flush the toilet or to water the calla lilies.)

Today I see you, Jesse. You are right here in my kitchen. I pour the sprout rinsing water into the big pot on the stove and as it heats we get the faint aroma of legumes plus a certain frothiness on the surface. Later, I lug it to the sink and wash the breakfast dishes. I can see the bits of tomato from your San Francisco kitchen. I thought you were over the edge, my friend, but now I get it that this is the edge we all need to be over, the one that connects us to the Gobi, to Bangladesh. This is my response. Will it stop the wars? I believe it is the only thing that possibly can: when the political becomes personal.

— Bonner J. McAllester

Del Martin to Speak at April 13 Community Dinner

There are only two more months left in the 2004–5 community potluck series at the Meetinghouse. For the April 13th dinner we will have an interesting lecture and discussion on the geology of our region led by one of our own scientists, Del Martin. Besides his skills as a firefighter, EMT, and auto repair guru, Del has undergraduate degrees in forestry and geology and a master's degree in metageology. This is a true renaissance man you will enjoy getting to know better. The dinner begins at 6:00 p.m.

At last month's dinner another renaissance man, Lenny Weber, spoke about his many journeys through Japan, as illustrated through his art. It was enchanting—the brief encounter with Japanese culture and the guided tour through his beautiful artwork. Many thanks, Lenny.

Coming up May 11th is the annual Monterey School program, so watch the Monterey News for details. Everyone is welcome at all the community potluck dinners, held on the second Wednesdays of each month, November through May, at the Monterey Meetinghouse. We request that those joining us for the dinners bring something to share for the potluck, a serving utensil, and a place setting for yourself. The meals begin at 6:00 p.m. and the programs are usually over between 8:00 and 8:30. Hopefully the snows are behind us for the season, but just in case, the church answering machine for bad weather cancellation and postponements is 528-5850. See you April 13th.

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Tuesday ..... 9:30 a.m.–noon
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Saturday ..... 9:30 a.m.–noon
.....7–9 p.m.

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Monterey Qualifies for Renewable Energy Award

Small communities in western Massachusetts are leading the state in supporting renewable electricity. Several Berkshire towns have already qualified for bonus payments through the Massachusetts Renewable Energy Trust (MRET) Clean Energy Choice program. If 3% of a town's residents enroll in Massachusetts Electric Company's GreenUp program by March 31, MRET will make a bonus payment of $50 per participating household toward a renewable energy project for the town. As of the end of February, Monterey and Egremont had both achieved 3% participation. Great Barrington, Sheffield, Alford, and West Stockbridge are all within a few enrollments of 3%.

Through GreenUp, Massachusetts Electric Company residential and small business customers have the opportunity to support clean energy by paying a small premium on their monthly electric bill. This premium supports electricity generated from renewable sources including wind, solar, low impact hydropower, and landfill gas. Towns also accrue funds regardless of the number of households enrolled. MRET matches a portion of every dollar residents spend on GreenUp for town renewable energy projects.

Two towns in Berkshire County will receive an additional award from CET. The two communities with the highest percentage of residents enrolled in GreenerWatts New England as of June 30, 2005, will each receive $5,000 for a solar project. GreenerWatts New England is one of the four clean energy choices available through GreenUp. Funding for CET's competition comes from the U.S. Department of Energy.

"Communities are showing leadership when they promote the GreenUp program to their citizens. Increasing the use of clean energy is a worthwhile community goal, and not surprisingly, their citizens are responding with enthusiasm," noted CET's Laura Dubester. "CET set up the friendly community competition to make it possible for smaller communities to afford a solar energy project."

For more information about GreenerWatts New England, contact CET's Raya Ariella at 1-800-238-1221, or visit www.GreenerWattsNewEngland.com.

Help Preserve Monterey's Scenic Roads

Any Monterey resident interested in preserving and maintaining our town's picturesque dirt roads is invited to an informal meeting to discuss strategies to ensure the roads' continued safety and preservation, including the Massachusetts Scenic Road Bylaw option. The meeting will be held on Saturday, April 23, at 10 a.m. in the basement of the Monterey Meetinghouse. If you have any questions, or would like to be involved and cannot attend the meeting, please contact Roger Tryon at 528-4091 or at BMaple@bcn.net; or Monica Webb at 528-2357 or poco@bcn.net.

Gould Farm Gala April 16

Gould Farm sends word to all our friends and neighbors—come on out and join us for our Seventh Annual Dinner Dance, a fundraising event to support our work with people who are dealing with mental illness. Our treatment program, designed to build self-esteem, provide vocational training and educational opportunities, and bring guests (our clients) into a supportive, nurturing, and eclectic community, has been in continuous operation since 1913. We are the oldest residential treatment facility of this kind in the country.

Your participation at the dinner dance, which includes a raffle and a live auction conducted by Lou Caropresso featuring a two-passenger, all-electric rechargeable cart manufactured by Global Electric Motor Cars, among other wonderful items, will support our work and the charitable care we are able to provide for families whose financial resources are limited. The event takes place on Saturday, April 16, at Eastover Resort in Lenox. For ticket information, raffle tickets, and any questions you might have, give Rita Kasky a call at Gould Farm, 528-1804, ext. 13 or email her at development@gouldfarm.org.

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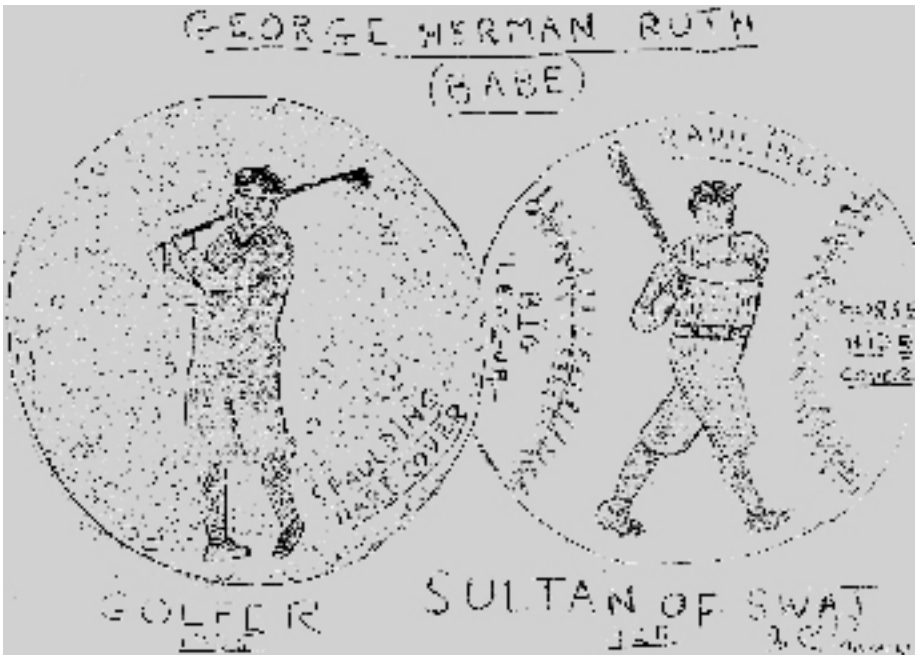
The Game of Golf and Signs of the Times



April brings daylight saving time and a glimmer of hope just over the horizon for golfers anticipating getting out on sunny links and slopes. There was even more anticipation back in 1929: construction of the Lake Garfield Country Club would be completed in the next few months, bringing the ancient and royal game to Monterey.

The club's founding family names included Diefendorfer, Eaton, Taggart, Whitestone, Groehl, and of course Tryon. Wallace Tryon had a hand in turning a rough landscape layout into a playable nine holes and was the only year-round resident member. When the game had taken root in this country at the turn of the century it was already hundreds of years old, and the seeds of interest came from the blustery and cold North Sea shores of England, Scotland, Ireland, and Holland. America put it's own spin on golf as a fair weather and summer game.

The year 1929 also brought the stock market crash while national pride was still recovering from the Black Sox baseball scandal. But the average Joe was still taking pride in the heroics of Babe Ruth's home run hitting (his 60-homer season had come in 1927) and Lindberg's flying solo across the Atlantic (also in 1927). Babe Ruth was almost a good enough golfer to be professional; he belonged to the Boston Corners Club and was frequently seen playing in the Berkshires.

I was in college in 1948 when Ruth died. My baseball coach, John S. Mclnnis, had played with him on the 1918 World Champion Red Sox, and, like Ruth, was also traded to the Yankees by Harry Frazee to raise money to pay a bad dept incurred in financing the Broadway play No, No, Nanette, after which the Sox would not win again for almost ninety years—the curse of the Bambino. My coach told me that Ruth got the nickname Babe because he was only nineteen when he came to the big leagues. Even though he soon developed into baseball's best pitcher and hitter, he never grew out of his playful and wayward habits, so the name stuck. But more important, Ruth spent much of his spare time visiting sick children in hospitals and liked to think of his image and that of baseball for the kids.

When the Babe was too old for baseball, he spent his days fishing, hunting, and golfing around here and was frequently invited as a guest speaker for a fee at various clubs. In 1935 he was invited to play golf and speak at Pine Valley Golf Club in New Jersey, still to this day annually rated as one of the toughest eighteen holes in the world. Many years later a friend invited me there for two days, and in the club brochure I read another anecdote about the Bambino.

Having had a few drinks before speaking to the full membership, Ruth expressed his disappointment, after shooting an 84, that the course was not as tough as he expected. There was a deathly silence in the audience, which took pride in the difficulty of their famous eighteen holes. Realizing that he had misspoken, Ruth tried to recoup his remarks by asking for a show of hands of those wishing to bet him ten dollars he could not break 80 the next day. Every hand in the hall went up, and names were written down. Every person in the audience knew full well that golf is a game played in the mind and that once the hazards of Pine Valley were in a new visitor's psyche they would be a curse, so that nobody could play better the second day. On my second day, before hitting my approach to the eighteenth hole, my caddy showed me the nine-foot-deep sandtrap that had swallowed up Ruth's final drive, costing him four extra srokes to get out and ten dollars to every member of the club.

If you are old enough to remember the lean years and hard times of the Depression, you know that a few hundred dollars was a lot of money in those days. Somehow, in Monterey the Lake Garfield Club was able to survive until 1941, when the gas shortage of World War II forced it to be closed. Today it lies overgrown in woods just northeast of the skating rink behind the firehouse, well beyond any hope of reconstruction. A new world record for a solo flight around the globe has been set, but with automatic pilot. The steroids scandal in baseball has cast a shadow upon home run records, and we worry about the effect of high gas and oil prices on our lifestyle and economy. The more things change, the more they seem to remain the same.

In the month ahead, if Berkshire weather puts a curse on what you might consider optimum weather for playing golf in this part of the world, the Masters at Augusta National and the Red Sox versus the Yankees in the house that Ruth built can be seen on TV in the comfort of your own home. Let's celebrate the season that brings back our national pastime and the royal and ancient game of golf. FORE !

— George Emmons

Notes from Greenhaven Farm
Ruminations in the Off-Season

Four years ago we decided to call ourselves farmers. There isn't any official certification required to call yourself a farmer. Some farmers cultivate hundreds of acres and some have several quarter-acre plots like we do. The economics of farming in New England are not so great. If they were, the nineteenth-century westward migration might never have happened, and all the vacant cellar holes in the woods around Monterey would still be farmhouses. We are not motivated by the economics. Our inspiration comes from thinkers like Wendell Berry. In his Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front he says, "So, friends, every day do something that won't compute."

Farming is immensely rewarding work. It "won't compute" on the common scale of rewards that are measurable. Doing real work outdoors all summer and creating products that are admired and appreciated is good. Having direct contact with customers whose health is enhanced by our vegetables is great. We don't harvest caseloads and ship them off to the wholesaler. We want and need the direct customer contact where our reward is found. To guide our energy toward earning that reward, we created a mission statement last year. Here is part of it:

Steve Pullen

Sign of spring: Sally Pullen planting seed in the cold frame

We want to create something of beauty for ourselves and our customers. We want to produce food that tastes good and is grown in an environmentally friendly way. We want to help people to have an appreciation for healthy nutritious food and what it takes to produce it. We want to provide new experiences in food, for example unfamiliar vegetables, etc. We enjoy the pleasure of growing things, the wonder of growth and renewal, the change of seasons, and relaxing in the "off season."

We have experienced the full range of emotions while serving our customers, from love or laughter to embarrassment or anger and everything in between. By far the sweet light has overcome the darkness. We especially love to hear people say they never tasted vegetables as good as ours. Agribusiness prizes vegetables that have perfect appearance and hard surfaces, and can withstand the rigors of shipping and handling. We grow for taste and high nutrition. Our soils are optimized for the plant's needs, and we pick within hours of marketing. One day a Frenchman rode up on his bicycle. He chose many of the not-so-perfect appearing vegetables. I complimented his choices and he said he had lived in Provence, where he was taught that appearance doesn't mean best taste. People love the taste of sliced heirloom tomatoes, but won't buy the whole ripe fruit because of its wrinkled greenish top. You may have heard about the Florida farmer growing delicious ugly heirloom tomatoes who was forced to stop, because he was ruining the business of the rest of the industry, which grows the beautiful tasteless things that the American consumer has been trained to expect.

Some of our favorite customers are children. They love the experience of seeing the gardens and relating them to the food they eat. They seem to be very sensitive to the taste difference. One six-year-old stood in the middle of the garden and exclaimed how beautiful it all was. We were delirious. She took carrots (we let her pick them) for show-and-tell at school, where the consensus was they were the best tasting carrots in the world. Priceless! Another young fellow comes with his mom regularly. Once, as they were leaving he threw several quarters in the box. I looked in wonder at his mother, and she said it was his money, and he wanted to do it. Choke!

We do marvel sometimes at the psychological motivations of consumers. One of our regular customers bought a flower bouquet. There were the usual five or six arrangements on display. She wasn't going home yet, so we offered to put it out back. She laughed and told us that once while running an antique store she noticed that customers always wanted the items with "sold" signs on them, so they played a game of putting fake sold signs on merchandise. We laughed at the story, put a sold sign on the bouquet and

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she left. You know the rest of the story. Not fifteen minutes passed before a man came in and insisted we sell him that bouquet. We offered to pick a fresh one just like it, but he insisted on buying the sold one. So we sold it to him, picked a fresh one for our neighbor, who came and enjoyed the best laugh of the week over how remarkable humans can be.

Well, the leisurely off-season has ended. When you read this we will have started hundreds of seedlings indoors. This will be our most bountiful harvest ever! Farmers are the penultimate optimists. If you have been one of our customers at the farm stand or at the Lenox Farmers Market, thanks! If you haven't tried our tasty products, then maybe we'll get to know you this year.

— Steve Pullen

A Fish Story and a Whopper

On February 27, Mary Kate Jordan and Bonsai Cox invited some Gould Farm friends to ice fish in front of their house on Stevens Lake. At 6 p.m., just after dark, as they were pulling up all their lines they noticed one was tipped. On it was a four-pound bass (photo)! What a beauty!

They had so much fun that all were invited back two weeks later. This time, as they were lowering a line into the hole a bass came up the hole after the bait. The poor fellow didn't know how to turn around in the narrow eleven-inch hole, so Ed Von Seggern reached in and caught a two-pounder with his hands! Now there's a fish story for you.

— Steve Pullen

Bonsai Cox

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LakeFest 2005

Public Meeting Schedule

Monday, April 11: Public Hearing on Fairview Road, Town Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, April 22: Informational meeting about issues on warrant for Annual Town Meeting, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, April 26: Informational meeting on Wilson-McLaughlin House, Town Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 7: Town Meeting and Town Election, Town Hall, 9:30 a.m.

Note that copies of the proposed Town Budget for 2005–06 will be available at the Town Offices after April 11.

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Correction to March *News*

To the Editor:

I enjoy reading the *Monterey News* each month and believe it provides good information on the happenings in our town. We really appreciate all of your work. However, I do wish to bring to your attention a couple of inaccuracies in the recent March issue.

In "The Town" section, it was indicated that I said something I did not. Specifically, the article said that Hillel Maximon and I had told the Select Board that Fire Chief Ray Tryon said that a fire truck would not be able to maneuver past a certain section of Beartown Mountain Road. Maximon did report he had spoken with Mr. Tryon; I never represented that I had spoken to him.

Also within the article regarding the same issue, Selectman Jon Sylbert is quoted as responding to our complaint with, "The problems confronting Beartown Road residents are the inevitable result of people settling on a dirt road," and, "It is the nature of dirt roads to get muddy." Sylbert recently approached me and apologized for this misprint, and informed me that it was Maynard Forbes, not him, who had made these comments. I would also add that these comments give an inaccurate portrayal of the discussion Maximon and I had with the Select Board that morning. We made it clear we enjoyed living on a dirt road and expected a certain degree of ruts, washboards, and muddy sections during thaw periods. What we didn't expect, was that the section of road in question would be impassible by regular car, a safety hazard for all drivers, and not attended to by the Monterey Roads Department, despite complaints from Beartown Road residents and UPS. After hearing our statements and seeing the photographs, the Selectmen agreed to look into solutions.

— Monica Webb, Monterey

We regret mistakenly associating Ms. Webb with Mr. Maximon's report of his conversation with the Fire Chief. We believe the rest of the March town news article was accurate and stand by it. —Ed.

Thank You Road Crew

To the Editor:

We have had another "interesting" winter, coming late, and with a lot of snow. Special thanks to the Monterey Highway Department for such a great job keeping the roads open and safe. I speak especially for the bus routes and the drivers who have the responsibility of safety as well as schedule for a lot of students. Linda, Alicia, Anita, Tammi, and Paul are the Monterey drivers every day. THANK YOU!

The back roads are a special challenge and require a little more attention. On one Tuesday at noon when we had a half-day schedule and the storm was raging as I backed my bus in at the Town Hall to wait for my students to come in on the other busses before heading for the back roads. Maynard was sitting there in his truck and we chatted a little about this and that. After a few minutes I said, "Well, I'll let you go and plow some snow somewhere." Maynard said, "Oh no, I'm going to wait and follow you up Beartown to make sure you get in and out OK." That was a real encouragement and a gesture of real dedication. When we found out I didn't have to go up Beartown he left, but not before assuring me, "They just plowed and sanded Mount Hunger so you will be OK."

For the road crews there are many long days, late nights, and early mornings. As the old expression goes, "You can't please all of the people all of the time," but these men do a fantastic job trying. Despite these long hours and tiring days, they always have a wave, toot, and smile as we drive past. Again, THANK YOU!

Roger Tryon had an interesting article in the March Newsletter concerning the back roads and preserving their beauty. I'm certainly not qualified to compare the costs of gravel roads to paved roads. Both have costs associated with them and are also subject to weather conditions. The gravel roads suffer in the mud season and some develop "washboards" during some rains. The paved roads suffer from frost heaves, and some are actually worse than the gravel roads. The beauty of these roads, however, is indisputable and certainly needs to be preserved.

I drive the Monterey Feeder School Bus route, which is all on back roads. It is a challenge during the winter but worth the beauty and privilege of serving the students who live on them. It is not uncommon for me to come home with the bus in the afternoon and take my wife on a drive, over some of the roads I just delivered students on, to enjoy the beauty. Looking out over the valley from Mount Hunger, for example, is breathtaking. In the autumn season Beartown Mountain Road is my "tunnel of color" with the trees in full bloom on both sides and creating an arch over the road. After a fresh snow the trees are white and glistening in the morning sun. As daylight comes earlier the sunrise is glamorous.

Monterey has some beautiful and historic sights. Whatever is done, some consideration should be given to preserving that beauty.

While on the subject of "that beauty," perhaps a reminder that as spring comes and the snow goes away there will be a lot of trash accumulated along the roads. A little "Adopt-a-Highway" effort on everyone's part can also help preserve this beauty.

— Paul Dixon, Sandisfield

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Sour Grapes versus All You Can Eat

To the Editor:

Bonner McAllester is self-righteous and all sour grapes in February's *Monterey News*. She's angry because her candidate didn't win. She is in denial when she says she doesn't believe George W. Bush "was fairly elected this time any more than in 2000" (and of course, she fails to provide any clues to inform us just how she comes to this ridiculous conclusion).

Describing her "cramped" midnight bus ride to Washington with other anti-Bush activists, she details her self-styled "protest" at the Inaugural Parade, and bemoans the fact that when it was time for her big moment to remonstrate against the passing election winner, she "couldn't see a thing except the backsides of thousands of other protesters."

Perhaps if Bonner were to set her sights higher than the backsides of other angry people, she might better understand why Mr. Bush carried both electoral and popular vote this time, and more importantly, why he and the Republicans won hands-down in the national arena of ideas.

From the sound of Bonner's bitter rant, one would also think a visit to the nation's capital during the latest climax of the four-year presidential election cycle was something to dread rather than to celebrate.

My own experience on Inaugural Thursday was far different than Bonner's. The swearing-in was exhilarating—an event giving insight into American history; and immediately following the ceremony were receptions, celebrations, and some good old-fashioned partying.

This may sound corny to the sophisticated effetes in this bluest county in the bluest of states, but it was damn refreshing to witness history—and especially to witness in person this President taking the Oath.

The morning began overcast and chilly at 27 degrees. When I arrived at 10 a.m., the air was warmer, but the sky was still overcast and a dank gray. My seat was just left of center with an unobstructed view (not 175 feet from the rostrum) of the Presidential Seal and the spot where George W. was to be sworn. (It was easy to procure what the media said were "scarce" tickets. Literally the day before, I simply walked into my Congressman's office and asked his staff whether any tickets remained in his allotment.)

To my left sat a middle-aged husband and wife from York, Pennsylvania (about three hours north of DC). To my right were two former college buddies: one now lived in Lynchburg, Virginia, while the other had flown in for the event from central Illinois. The Lynchburg guy had driven five hours. Behind me sat three middle-aged women from Michigan whose coats bore big yellow buttons supporting John Kerry. They said they were quite proud of Mr. Kerry and that they were all there as Americans to share the history of the moment.

About twenty minutes before the noontime oath taking, a welcome sun broke through clearing sky. It remained bright and cheery throughout the duration of the ceremony. I never found out whether TV commentators made note of Sol's blazing noontime appearance, but to me it immediately held wonderful significance and gave special moment to the occasion, more so than the event already had.

The sun this day not only warmed, it gave blessing upon the entirety of the proceedings unfolding below. The country was watching and simultaneously going through this quadrennial political ritual, and it was as if the sun was giving its imprimatur. In that single moment, the historical magnificence and uniqueness of this whole American "thing" came into perspective, at least for this observer.

Afterwards, as all federal officialdom emptied the upper stands and the band filed out and folks were leaving the section where I sat, I hung out a bit watching people pass by. Then, rather than going over to the overcrowded parade route to wait around for a fleeting glimpse of a moving limo with two-inch thick tinted glass, I chose instead the party option. I had heard that Members of Congress were having open houses and that these were the places to be after the ceremony.

Did I say there was food? Contrasted with Bonner's starvation rations of her one sandwich with bottled water, any Washington Inauguration becomes a movable feast courtesy of your local Congressional campaign committee, no matter where you're from. All-you-could-eat buffet platters stocked with cold cuts, cheeses, sandwiches, salad fixings, shrimp cocktail, pastries, fruit, fresh-baked cookies, and refreshments were all free for any hungry mouth—Democrat, Republican, or Independent—willing to come in and just say hi.

MOC's, their wives and families, staffs, and constituents and their families from all over the country converged this day within the halls of the House and Senate Office Buildings. There were funny stories, flesh pressing, and a whopping good time. I pigged out. In one MOC's office, I polished off at least a pound of shrimp before attacking cold-cut sandwiches and finally, of course, the chocolate-chip cookies.

I didn't come across Bonner amongst this famished throng (though I caught a glimpse of a few T-shirts emblazoned with a variety of protest slogans), but she and her angry comrades would certainly have been welcomed had they just shown up to partake of the feast. The atmosphere these open houses engendered reminded me of the good humor and exuberance at the annual Berkshire Botanical Garden harvest festival. It was that kind of crowd, except these partygoers, far away from home, were augmenting their good cheer with a never-to-be-forgotten living history lesson.

The people I saw in those Capitol Hill buildings that Thursday afternoon did not appear angry nor bitter nor depressed nor victimized. At that point, they were just Americans having a real hoot of a good time. My guess is that that innate American optimism is what will carry us and this President forward through the next four years.

—Glenn M. Heller, Monterey and Bethesda, MD

Remembering Sylvia Kleban

Sylvia Lillian (Rod) Kleban passed away peacefully on February 25, 2005, in Springfield, Oregon, at the age of 90. Her three children, Peter Kleban of Bangor, Maine, Nancy Kleban of Los Angeles, and Joan Kleban of Eugene, Oregon, were present, as well as her son-in-law, Cary Thompson of Eugene. Her last week was graced by the attendance of her three grandchildren, Matthew Kleban, Rachel Kleban, and Miles Kleban-Thompson, as well as her former daughter-in-law, Eloise Kleban, and great grandson, Jeremy Roberts-Kleban.

Sylvia was born on May 30, 1914, to Jacob and Sophie Rod on Werden Road in West Becket, where she also grew up. She graduated from Lee High School (class of 1931) and Massachusetts State College (now the University of Massachusetts at Amherst), class of 1935. Later in life, she earned a masters degree in education from the University of Connecticut. She married Bernard Kleban in 1940. In 1948 they moved to Monterey and opened a hotel (Monterey Lodge) on Beartown Mountain Road (corner of Hupi Road), which they operated for several years. On selling the lodge, they retained part of the property as a summer home. The house is still in the family.

After leaving Monterey, Sylvia lived in several locations in New York, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. She and Bernard divorced in the early 1980s. Before moving to Oregon in 1999, she lived on Blue Hill Road in Great Barrington.

In addition to raising three children, Sylvia worked as a hospital laboratory technician and grade-school remedial reading teacher. She was very active in the League of Women Voters for many years. Sylvia will be remembered for her caring and cheerful nature, active interest in politics and gardening, love of children and music, and wonderful sense of humor. A celebration of her life is planned for next spring in the Berkshires.

Earth Day Clothing and Textile Drive

The Center for Ecological Technology (CET) will hold its tenth annual Used Clothing and Textile Drive to collect, reuse, and recycle old clothing and household textiles. The collection, part of the 35th anniversary celebration of Earth Day, will take place on Saturday, April 16, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, April 17, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at CET's office, 112 Elm Street, Pittsfield. The week before, clothes may be brought to the Berkshire South Regional Community Center, 15 Crissey Road, Great Barrington. The event is coordinated with assistance from the Southern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District.

All types of clothing are accepted, including sweaters, shirts, skirts, pants, jackets, overcoats, and raincoats. Blankets, gloves, socks, paired shoes, sheets, towels, curtains, and fabric scraps are also acceptable. Clothing must be clean, dry, and delivered in plastic bags. Rugs, carpeting, pillows, and winter boots will not be accepted.

This Earth Day tradition serves as a reminder about reuse and recycling opportunities in Berkshire County. Clothing collected during the drive is resold when possible, and is recycled into rags or other materials if it cannot be resold as clothing. Last year, CET collected over ten tons of materials from drop-off sites throughout Berkshire County.

For more information on the Textile Drive, please call Amy Johns at CET, 800-238-1221 ext. 14 or visit http://www.cetonline.org/Events/events.htm for exact dates and times.

Tax Bills Are Out

The real estate and personal property tax bills for the second half of fiscal year 2005 have been mailed. Payments are due by May 2, 2005, and may be mailed to Monterey Tax Collector, PO Box 241, Monterey, MA 01245 or dropped off at Town Hall.

— Mari Enoch, Tax Collector.

Peter S. Vallianos
Attorney at Law
528-0055

General practice includes real estate purchases, sales, family transfers and transfers in trust, zoning, land use matters, conservation restrictions, landlord-tenant; wills, probate; commercial law.

***

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Calendar

Every Monday (exc. holidays): Select Board meeting, 8:30 a.m.–noon, Town Offices.

Monday, April 11: Public Hearing about Fairview Road, Monterey Town Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 13: Community Potluck Dinner, 6 p.m., Monterey Meetinghouse. Del Martin will speak on the geology of our region. See p. 19 for details.

Thursday, April 14: Free blood pressure clinic, 2:30–3:30 p.m., Town Offices, administered by the Visiting Nurses Association.

Saturday, April 16:

Gould Farm Gala at Eastover Resort in Lenox. See p. 20 for details.

CET Used Clothing and Textile Drive, Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bring Clothing to Berkshire South Community Center the week before. Call Amy Johns at CET, 800 238-1221 ext 14 for more information.

Friday, April 22: Informational meeting about issues on Warrant for Annual Town Meeting, Monterey Town Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 23:

Passover starts at sundown.

Meeting on preserving Monterey's scenic roads, 10 a.m. in the Monterey Meetinghouse. See p. 20.

Contributors

We are grateful to the following readers for their recent contributions to the *Monterey News*.

Marjorie Day
Kate Ryan
Alan Klingenstein

Square and contra dancing, 8:30–11:30 p.m., Sheffield Grange, Rt. 7, Sheffield. Music by Mountain Laurel. Caller Jim Gregory. All dances are taught; beginners and children are welcome. Adults $6, children $3. Info. 528-9385.

Sunday, April 24: Full Moon.

Tuesday, April 26: Informational meeting called by the Wilson-Mclaughlin House Committee to discuss the creation of the Monterey Community Center, 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

Saturday, April 30: Stone by Stone: The History of Stone Walls, lecture by Robert Thorson and field walk 11 a.m.–1:30 p.m. in Sandisfield. $15 per person. Pre-registration required. Call Jane Christensen, 413-268-8219 for info.

Sunday, May 1: Applications are due for the McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Fund. See p. 18.

Saturday, May 7: Annual Town Meeting and Town Election, Monterey Town Hall, 9:30 a.m.

The Observer
February 26–March 25

High temp. (3/8)	50°
Low temp. (2/26, 3/10)	-2°
Avg. high temp.	33.2°
Avg. low temp.	12.7°
Avg. temp.	23.0°
Total precipitation (rain and melted snow)	3.34 in.
Snowfall	40.9 in.

Precipitation occurred on 14 days.

Burning Permits

Burning season runs through April 30. To get a burn permit, call 528-1734, press the pound key (#) and number 2, and leave your name, address of where you intend to burn, and a phone number. You must call on the day you want to burn. We do not issue permits ahead of time. This call is your permit.

You can only burn brush, tree trimmings, and the like. You cannot burn leaves, building materials, tires, or building debris. All fires must be tended and must be out by 4:00 p.m.

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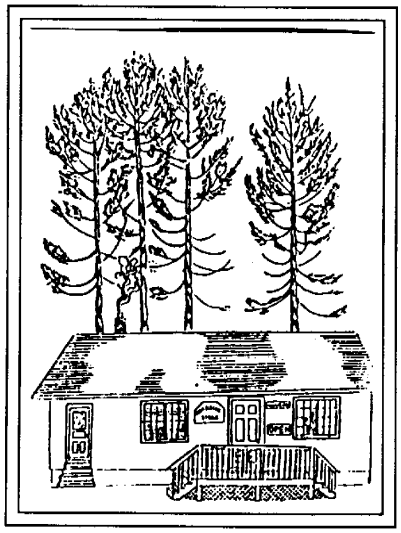

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Our editorial address is *Monterey News*, P. O. Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs from readers. Please send submissions (e-mail or computer disk if possible) by the 20th of the month before publication, addressed to the Editor. Send any change of address, or initial request to receive the *News* by mail (free) to Barbara Tryon, Business Manager. We will typeset a text-only ad for your Monterey-based business, service, or event, or advertisers may submit a computer formatted ad with graphics. Address request for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413·528-4347 or e-mail montnews@localnet.com.

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Contributions from local artists this month:
Maureen Banner, pp. 19, 23, 25; George Emmons, p. 21; Bonner McAllester, p. 19; Glynis Oliver, pp. 7, 14, 19. Masthead design by Edith Wilson. Bonner McAllester, p. 12; Glynis Oliver, pp. 2, 7, 10, 18, 19.

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